

Applicant: Hayao Yamaura
Appl. No.: 10/768,714

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration of this application. Claims 2-5 are currently pending. By this Amendment, claim 5 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 6, now cancelled without prejudice, and claims 2-4 have been amended to address formal matters. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter in claim 6. Solely to expedite prosecution, independent claim 5 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 6, now cancelled. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 and its dependent claims 2-4 are in condition for allowance, early notice of which is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,490,923 to Sasgen (hereinafter "Sasgen"). As stated above, claim 5, the sole independent claim, has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 6, now cancelled. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 and its dependent claims

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2-4 are in condition for allowance, early notice of which is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7/13/0007

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